



In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicants: Crump et al.
Serial No.: 09/459,522
Filed: December 13, 1999
For: ENDOTRACHEAL CATHETER AND
MANIFOLD ASSEMBLY WITH
IMPROVED VALVE

Docket: BA00117
Group: 3761
Examiner: Darwin P. Erez
Date: November 4, 2002

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Amendment C

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and in response to the Office Action mailed August 22, 2002, it is respectfully requested the Examiner reconsider the present application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follow:

Claim 1, please amend to read as follows:

- cl
1. (Twice Amended.) An apparatus comprising:
- a catheter configured for receiving fluids from a respiratory tract of a patient;
 - a manifold defining a ventilation circuit disposed in communication with the catheter so as to allow the catheter to be advanced through the ventilation circuit of the manifold and into the respiratory tract of the patient; and
 - a valve disposed in the manifold, the valve being configured to selectively limit the withdrawal of air from the ventilation circuit, wherein the valve is capable of being opened by the catheter; wherein the valve comprises at least one protrusion on at least one surface of the valve, and wherein the valve is a flap.

Claim 11, please amend to read as follows:

- c2
11. (Twice Amended.) An endotracheal catheter system comprising:
- a catheter having a distal end configured for suctioning secretions from the respiratory system of a patient;